

Ms. Denise Sloan
Galveston District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, TX 77553-1229

Dear Ms. Sloan:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, has completed its review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Matagorda Ship Channel Improvement Project, Calhoun and Matagorda Counties, Texas. The proposed action includes widening and deepening the Matagorda Ship Channel from the Port of Port Lavaca—Point Comfort marine slips and existing Point Comfort Turning Basin in Lavaca Bay through Matagorda Bay and offshore into the Gulf of Mexico and dredging of a new turning basin in Lavaca Bay.

EPA rates the DEIS as "EC-2," i.e., EPA has "**Environmental Concerns and Requests Additional Information in the Final EIS (FEIS)**." EPA has identified environmental concerns and informational needs to be included in the FEIS to complement and to more fully insure compliance with the requirements of NEPA and the CEQ regulations and the Clean Water Act. Areas requiring additional information or clarification include: ocean disposal of dredged material impacts and air quality impacts.

Our classification will be published in the Federal Register according to our responsibility under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act to inform the public of our views on proposed Federal actions. Detailed comments are enclosed with this letter, which more clearly identify our concerns and the informational needs requested for incorporation into the FEIS.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to review the DEIS. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Jansky of my staff at 214-665-7451 or e-mail him at jansky.michael@epa.gov for assistance. Please send our office five copies of the FEIS when it is sent to the Office of Federal Activities, EPA (Mail Code 2252A), Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20460.

Sincerely yours,

Cathy Gilmore, Chief
Office of Planning and
Coordination (6EN-XP)

Enclosure